

Persevering Faith and Persistent Prayer (Mark 7:24-30)

Proposition: When it comes to the matter of faith and prayer, every disciple of Christ can learn a few instructional cautions from this Syrophenician woman.

- I. Don't Be Disheartened By Disadvantages (Vs. 24-25)
 - A. The Disadvantages of Position (Vs. 24)
 - B. The Disadvantages of Perception (Matt. 15:23-24)
 - C. The Disadvantages of Powers (Vs. 25)
- II. Don't Be Deterred By a Denial (Vs. 25-28)
 - A. Cast Yourself Before Him (Vs. 25)
 - B. Call Aloud To Him (Vs. 26)
 - C. Continue Seeking For Him (Vs. 28)
- III. Don't Be Distressed By the Distance (Vs. 24, 28-30)
 - A. The Distance Between The Seeker and the Saviour (Vs. 24, 28)
 - B. The Distance Between The Saviour and the Subject (Vs. 29-30)

Persevering Faith + Persistent Prayer

(Mark 7: 24-30) If there were ever a modern day example of a man of faith and prayer it was George Mueller. The stories of how God answered prayer to meet the needs of his large orphanage are prayer-inspiring. In one instance in his writings he said "The great point in prayer is never to give up until the answer comes." He gives an example from his own life. He said "I've been praying 63 years + 8 months for one man's conversion" 63 years. George Mueller, a great man of faith, 63 yrs + 8 mos in waiting. He goes on to say "He is not saved yet, but he will be. How can it be otherwise? I am praying!" How did he do it? How does one persist in faith and prayer for more than 63 years? That brings us to the text before us tonight. This Syrophenician woman whose perseverance in Faith and persistence in prayer was rewarded miraculously. When it comes to the matter faith + prayer every disciple of Christ can learn a few

Don't be Discouraged by Disadvantages

(Vs. 24-25) In order to find a rest, Jesus ventures outside of Palestine into a primitive Gentile region. While there he is appro

ched by a woman native to the region. She had a

A. The Disadvantages of Position (Vs. 24) -

She was from a region that was populated by the descendants of the Canaanites, ^{who} ~~was~~ driven out of the land in the OT. She is a gentile. ^{Not} a Jew. Matt 10: 6. She was also a woman

among a society driven by men. The point is that she had everything ³ ~~positionally~~ against her when she came to Jesus. ⁴ ~~Don't~~ ~~me~~ ~~when~~

B. The Disadvantages of Perception (Matt 15: 23-24)

When she first came to Jesus he did not react at all. He ignored her. Yet she continued to persist. The disciples had had enough and she was being perceived as a nuisance, a bother. Get rid of Her Jesus! You may be perceived wrongly by your continued persistence and believe in God

C. The Disadvantages of Powers (Vs. 25) -

Demonic forces were coming against her family. Demons tormented her daughter. It is excruciating to watch your child suffer. Like twisting a dagger in your own heart. And yet she persisted in faith and in calling. Vs 25 "She heard!" She held tightly to the hope that what he had done for others she

II. Don't be Deterred by a Denial (Vs. 25-28)

This is an unusual and difficult passage. The glimpse of Jesus we have here is not of a gentle Jesus meek & mild but of a Jesus that

- 1) ...few instructional cautions from this Syrophoenician woman.
- 2) Matthew 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- 3) ...when we were lost and God answered our first prayer for mercy. You may not be spiritually strong are part of the Christian elite. But don't let that dishearten you!
- 4) Matthew 15:22-24 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

1) ...Jesus is teaching his disciples. Playing devil's advocate. In the previous passage, Jesus begins to tare down the wall between Jew and greek. Here he does the same. Ignoring her need, reminding her of her position, yet in the end extending mercy and grace. Notice what we learn from this woman's reaction to Jesus denial.

2) Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. 1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

3) ...She continued in faith and in prayer! Oh that we would do the same, don't be deterred by denial. She could of said, Well it must not be God's will and tunred around and went home. She prayed on. *"Unanswered yet? The prayer your lips have pleaded, In agony of heart these many years? Does faith begin to fail, is hope departing, And think you all in vain those falling tears? Say not the Father hath not heard your prayer; You shall have your desire, sometime, somewhere'."*

curses us to scratch our head & believe Jesus

A. Cast Yourself Before Him (Vs. 25) Remember in Matt 15 Jesus ignored her, continuing on his way in vers 25 says that he was so desperate to be heard that she flung herself at the feet of Jesus, basically blocking his path. In Matt 15:25 she said "Lord, help me" - this is desperation. When was the last time we became desperate for God?

B. Call Out To Him (Vs. 26) - She hesought. The word is in an imperfect tense meaning she hesought & hesought and hesought. She called out to Him Daniel often says he cried unto God w/ his voice! She had a hope from the testimony of Christ and would not let go! she got the complete rebuke. ⑤

C. Continue Seeking For Him (Vs. 28) - Jesus actually addressed her in vs 27 and he basically refused her request. Yet he left the door open so to speak. These were not harsh words. The dog was the beloved little pet dog. Not ravenous dirty scavenger dogs as Pharisees would call. In vs 28 she uses Jesus as an example to express her case. She could

III. Don't Be Distressed By the Distance (Vs 24, 28-30) - It is important to note that the only two times where Jesus could have seen her faith as "great faith" it was in rea-

ction to Gentile faith, both cases Jesus healed

A. The Distance Between the Seeker and the Saviour (Vs. 24, 28) - What do you mean distance between the Seeker and the Saviour. She was kneeling down right in front of Jesus. Yet there were never two more people further apart, a Gentile woman, outside the covenant of promise, sinful, and Jesus, Son of God, spotless holy, King of Kings, yet that distance was span not by her prayers but by the grace of God! Remember the old hymn by Joseph Hart

B. The Distance Between The Saviour and the Subject (Vs 29-30) - Right then and there the Son of God answered this prayer and healed this daughter. This is the magnificence of prayer. A grandmother in her prayer closet can call on a God in heaven and He in turn can reach a grandson in California. A father at a work bench can call on the King of Zion, who can touch a daughter on the streets of Atlanta. That son daughter, financial problem, physical

IV. Closing - The day came when Muller's friend did receive the Lord Jesus, but it didn't come until Muller's Coffin was being lowered into the ground, but yet

1) I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Saviour, O there are ten thousand charms. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity love and power. 'Let not conscience make you linger, Nor of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness He requireth Is to feel your need of Him'

- 2) ...physical malady is not out of the reach of God.
- 3) yet it came just the same. Beside that open grave that man, who Mueller prayed for for 63 years and 8 months, trusted Christ. One author wrote: "Persevering prayer won the battle. Mueller's prayer saw success just for four simple words: he did not quit."